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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
10/045,688	10/29/2001	Marian L. Larson	ML-01-US-DIV	1913
7590	09/21/2004		EXAMINER	
Robert L. McDowell			THANH, LOAN H	
1170 Jackson Heights Drive				
Webster, NY 14580				
			ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER
			3763	
				DATE MAILED: 09/21/2004

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

VN

Office Action Summary	Application No.	Applicant(s)	
	10/045,688	LARSON ET AL.	
	Examiner	Art Unit	
	LoAn H. Thanh	3763	

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If the period for reply specified above is less than thirty (30) days, a reply within the statutory minimum of thirty (30) days will be considered timely.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) Responsive to communication(s) filed on 28 May 2004.
- 2a) This action is FINAL. 2b) This action is non-final.
- 3) Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) Claim(s) 1,5,7,8,12,13 and 15 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) 2-4,6,9-11,14 and 16-20 is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.
- 6) Claim(s) 1,5,7-812-13,15 is/are rejected.
- 7) Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.
- 8) Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) The drawing(s) filed on _____ is/are: a) accepted or b) objected to by the Examiner.
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
 - a) All
 - b) Some *
 - c) None of:
 1. Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 2. Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
 3. Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

- | | |
|--|---|
| 1) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Notice of References Cited (PTO-892) | 4) <input type="checkbox"/> Interview Summary (PTO-413) |
| 2) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) | Paper No(s)/Mail Date. _____ |
| 3) <input type="checkbox"/> Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date _____ | 5) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152) |
| | 6) <input type="checkbox"/> Other: _____ |

DETAILED ACTION

Election/Restrictions

Applicant only elected claims 5 and 15 on the elected species of the hydrogel.

This requirement was deemed proper and made final in the last office action.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 102

The following is a quotation of the appropriate paragraphs of 35 U.S.C. 102 that form the basis for the rejections under this section made in this Office action:

A person shall be entitled to a patent unless –

(e) the invention was described in a patent granted on an application for patent by another filed in the United States before the invention thereof by the applicant for patent, or on an international application by another who has fulfilled the requirements of paragraphs (1), (2), and (4) of section 371(c) of this title before the invention thereof by the applicant for patent.

The changes made to 35 U.S.C. 102(e) by the American Inventors Protection Act of 1999 (AIPA) and the Intellectual Property and High Technology Technical Amendments Act of 2002 do not apply when the reference is a U.S. patent resulting directly or indirectly from an international application filed before November 29, 2000. Therefore, the prior art date of the reference is determined under 35 U.S.C. 102(e) prior to the amendment by the AIPA (pre-AIPA 35 U.S.C. 102(e)).

Claims 1,5, 7-8,12,13 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(e) as being anticipated by Alt et al. (USPN 5,788,979).

Alt et al. disclose a biodegradable coating comprised of polymers such as PEG – polyethylene glycol and aliphatic, hydroxyl polymers which are synthetic or naturally

occurring , blends and mixtures thereof which forms a coating/film on an unexpandable device. See cols. 3-4,9. Alt et al. discloses the implantable drug delivering medical device to be at least one of a, vascular prostheses , heart valve prostheses, electrodes, patches m catheters with or without balloon, tubes, containers , mandrills , suture material, etc. (See col. 8, lines 57-col.9, lines 7.) Further, Alt et al. disclose the coating/film to incorporate drugs. Alt et al. teach that after insertion into the patient's body the coating undergoes degradation by hydrolytic, enzymatic or degenerative processes. Alt et al. disclose in example six that the coating may be applied well in advance of the procedures or "*just prior to that procedure*".

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

Claim 15 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Alt et al. (USPN 5,788,979) in view of Tartaglia et al. (USPN 5,637,113) or Dayton (U.S. Patent No. 5,449,382) .

Alt et al. disclose the claimed invention except for the hydrogel being a mixture of PEG/polyethylene glycol and polyethylene oxide. Alt et al. disclose several types and combinations and mixtures of polymers for use to coat a medical device that incorporates a drug by dipping a medical device including PEG. Tartaglia et al. or

Art Unit: 3763

Dayton teach an implantable drug-deliverable device with a hydrogel/hydrophilic coating or film comprising a mixture of polyethylene oxide and polyethylene glycol for providing lubricious or low friction material on medical devices. (specifically Dayton discloses a comprising a hydrogel polymer such as polyethylene , polyglycolic acid polymers , polylactic acid polymers (specifically disclosed as biodegradable) , hydrogels and combinations, copolymers and blended mixtures thereof admix with a drug/ bioactive substance. Polyglycolic acid polymers and polylactic acid polymers are specifically disclosed as biodegradable.) It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to modify the materials of the hydrogel polymer mixture to a mixture of PEG with polyethylene oxide as taught by Tartaglia et al. , since it has been held to be within the general skill of a worker in the art to select a known material on the basis of its suitability for the intended uses as a matter of obvious engineering choice lacking any criticality. In re Leshin , 125 USPQ 416. Further, it provides a device which is more lubricious.

Response to Arguments

Applicant's arguments with respect to claims 1,5-8, 12-13 and 15 have been considered but are moot in view of the new ground(s) of rejection.

Conclusion

Applicant's amendment necessitated the new ground(s) of rejection presented in this Office action. Accordingly, **THIS ACTION IS MADE FINAL**. See MPEP

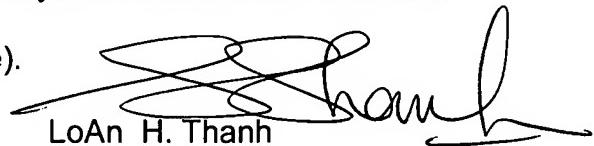
§ 706.07(a). Applicant is reminded of the extension of time policy as set forth in 37 CFR 1.136(a).

A shortened statutory period for reply to this final action is set to expire THREE MONTHS from the mailing date of this action. In the event a first reply is filed within TWO MONTHS of the mailing date of this final action and the advisory action is not mailed until after the end of the THREE-MONTH shortened statutory period, then the shortened statutory period will expire on the date the advisory action is mailed, and any extension fee pursuant to 37 CFR 1.136(a) will be calculated from the mailing date of the advisory action. In no event, however, will the statutory period for reply expire later than SIX MONTHS from the date of this final action.

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to LoAn H. Thanh whose telephone number is (703) 305-0038. The examiner can normally be reached on Mon. - Fri. (First Friday off).

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Brian Casler can be reached on (703) 308-3552. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 703-872-9306.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).



LoAn H. Thanh
Primary Examiner
Art Unit 3763

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